



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

No. 12

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, on this first full day of a new administration, we offer our heartfelt prayers for the leaders of this country and for the future of our Nation. May they and we humble ourselves before You and call upon Your name. May they and each of us seek Your face in our midst as we lift up our hearts to You. As a people, we confess the malice of our ways.

Hear us in Your Heaven, forgive our sin, and heal our land. Consecrate this House that Your name may abide with us forever. Open Your eyes to us, and may Your ears be attentive to our prayer, for we pray in the strength of Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF COVID-19

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks all Members in the Chamber, as well as

Members and staff throughout the Capitol, to rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of more than 400,000 Americans who have passed away from the COVID-19 virus.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 335, PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider H.R. 335 in the House if called up by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee; that all points of order against consideration of the bill be waived; that the bill be considered as read; that all points of order against provisions in the bill be waived; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 19, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 19, 2021, at 1:10 p.m.:

That the Senate is ready to receive Managers appointed by the House.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1412

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 2021, I call up the bill (H.R. 335) to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces, and ask

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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